



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jerry Davis; I represent the Montana Bowhunters Association.

MBA opposes SB 380 for the following reason.

The provision in this bill allowing for an additional 1500 Class B-10 nonresident licenses for wilderness areas only is not needed. At this time FWP is not selling all of the returned B-10 nonresident elk licenses. These nonresident elk licenses were allowed to be returned by previous legislation. Montana sportsmen do not need an addition 1500 nonresident licenses. Instead we suggest that 1500 of the 17,000 Class B-10 nonresident licenses be designated for wilderness areas only.

But we do have a concern with the impacts of an additional 1500 hunters into a wilderness area. No doubt there will be an impact on elk and deer populations in those wilderness areas. This bill if made law could have impacts on wilderness elk. We are all hearing about declining elk populations due to wolf, lion, and bear predation. Adding 1500 nonresident hunters into wilderness areas to hunt elk may only make the problems worse.

We ask that you vote "Do Not Pass"

Jerry Davis

MBA Representative